

Rick Dunkerley**Address:** PO Box 601

Lincoln, MT 59639

Phone: 406-210-4101**Email:** dunkerleyknives@gmail.com**Web Site:** www.dunkerleyhandmadeknives.com**Medium:** metal**About the Artist:**

Rick Dunkerley, a bladesmith from Lincoln, was born and raised in Sharon, PA. He always loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. When he was 6 or 7 years old, his father brought back a folding knife for him from Spain. From then on, his fascination with knives grew. He would eventually spend four years in the USAF and then in 1983 began making stock knives as the natural evolution of that fascination. After he moved to Montana in 1985, his interest in bladesmithing increased and he was exposed to Damascus metal, which attracted him because of the mystery it held.

Largely self-taught, Dunkerley continued to make stainless steel hunting and utility knives until 1991, when he began forging metal and creating Damascus steel. Since 1996, he has been a fulltime knife-maker, with one of his Damascus mosaic metal themes being "fish," reflecting his other passion, outfitting in Montana's Scapegoat Wilderness.

About the Work:

He joined the American Bladesmith Society, receiving his journeyman smith rating in 1995. He attained the American Bladesmith Society's Mastersmith rating in 1997. In 2005, after attending the Italian Knifemakers guild show in Milan, Italy, he received that organization's Maestro rating. Dunkerley has become extremely influential to the makers of folding knives throughout the U.S. He specializes in one-of-a-kind mosaic Damascus folding knives, though he also makes an occasional fixed blade.

Dunkerley makes the beauty and history of this art known by attending shows nationally and internationally, speaking to bladesmith groups, teaching to students at the local high school and at conferences across the nation. He remains active in the American Bladesmith Society and brings his art to life for everyone who has an opportunity to see his demonstrations of smithing. Realizing the limited resources for Montana bladesmiths, he has hosted hammer-ins, inviting national known bladesmiths to share their knowledge, and he has authored a chapter in two books on blade-making.

Photos by Marti DeAlva, Chris Autio, and Eric Eggly